

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 345 906

RC 018 683

AUTHOR Carter, Trina
TITLE Accessing Current Information on California Indians.
PUB DATE Oct 90
NOTE 14p.; Paper presented at the Annual California Indian Conference (6th, Riverside, CA, October 25-28, 1990).
PUB TYPE Speeches/Conference Papers (150) -- Reference Materials - Bibliographies (131) -- Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Access to Information; American Indians; *American Indian Studies; Annotated Bibliographies; *College Libraries; Higher Education; *Information Sources; *Library Materials; Library Services; Reference Services
IDENTIFIERS California; *California State University Fresno

ABSTRACT

As California Indians confront contemporary issues, their need for timely information is vital. The library at California State University (CSU), Fresno, serves students enrolled in Native American studies courses as well as members of the San Joaquin valley community. Information sources include both recorded information and the "invisible network" of scholars and experts in Native American Studies. The CSU Fresno library contains strong general and special collections on the Indians of California, especially of the San Joaquin valley and the Sierra Nevada foothills region; a good legal reference section; a selected depository of California and U.S. government documents; and a large collection of periodical indexes. Online searching of databases provides access to current literature on specific topics. The most important area of current recorded information is the Native press. Among concerns about access to current information on American Indians are the facts that: (1) the information is scattered; (2) much of the Native American press is not indexed; and (3) the cost of online searching is high. This paper contains an annotated bibliography, including 5 general sources, 6 Indian directories, 17 indexes, 10 Native newspapers and periodicals, and 12 sources for federal and state legislation and litigation.
(SV)

* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *

ED345906

Session: Issues and Resources for California Indians

ACCESSING CURRENT INFORMATION ON
CALIFORNIA INDIANS

By: Trina Carter
CSU Fresno

As California Indians, like many Native Americans, heighten their participation in ongoing issues of land dispute, water rights, regaining custody of the remains of their ancestors, and with issues of employment, education, and reservation development, their need for timely information concerning these issues is vital. Yet this information is scattered among newspaper, periodicals, government documents, monographs, and audiovisual materials, university archives, research centers and clearinghouses, census roles, tribal newsletters and files, online databases, and radio and television programming. It is often difficult and time-consuming for the student, researcher, or other interested individual to know where to obtain the appropriate answer for their information need.

Librarians and specialists in Native American issues are usually the front line of inquiry in a search for information. This presentation will present a brief synopsis of the more fruitful sorts of resources which contain current data and discussion on Native California. The presentation will also describe search strategies for the information seeker to follow to obtain current material. If time permits, a number of information programs around the state that are benefitting California Indians will be mentioned.

Lists of resources emphasizing current information will be distributed to conference attendees.

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS
MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Trina Carter

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION
CENTER (ERIC)

☒ This document has been reproduced as
received from the person or organization
originating it.
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve
reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this docu-
ment do not necessarily represent official
OERI position or policy.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Re 078683

"Accessing Current Information on California Indians"

Paper presented at the
Sixth Annual California Indian Conference,
Riverside, CA, October 25-28, 1990

by
Trina Carter
Henry Madden Library
California State University, Fresno

I am here today speaking as an ethnic services librarian, primarily, and a student of the Native American, secondarily, about helping the people whom my library serves find recent information on California Indians. By recent, I mean events/issues that have been of concern to Indians over the last several years and events that are transpiring now, many of which are being discussed at this conference: cultural preservation, artistic expression, tribal sovereignty, federal recognition of California tribes, repatriation of ancestral remains, relations between Native American and social scientists.

The place where I work - California State University, Fresno - is a very diverse campus, with most ethnic groups represented and students from 86 countries around the globe. There are nearly twenty thousand students, mostly undergraduate, who are the primary clientele we serve in the Library. My mission is to help people find information on the four major American ethnic groups: African Americans, Asian Americans, Chicanos/Latinos, and Native Americans. There are about 270 Native American students enrolled. There is an active Native American Studies program and two Native American student organizations. Courses offered are Native American history, education, religion, law, and a course on Indians of

California. The California Indian course stresses contemporary issues such as litigation along with a look at traditional cultural ways. These courses have helped heighten awareness of Indian affairs on our campus. Our campus, like an increasing number of colleges and universities around the country, has instituted an ethnic studies requirement, so that many of our non-Indian students become exposed to classes on Native Americans. As well, since we are the major library in the San Joaquin Valley, we also serve the community.

The contemporary issues which our users are researching range from attempts by the Tache to preserve their language, to the Hoopa-Yurok Settlement Act and its history, to the proposed California Tribal Status Act of 1990. We find that Native and non-Native researcher alike are looking, side-by-side sometimes, in the Library and out, for answers to their questions. I think this is very refreshing, because I see our collection stretched in creative ways to attempt to answer these questions and new information sources added to the Library to meet these contemporary demands. My concern as an information professional is in showing people likely sources that will address their questions about California Indian issues and those that will inform them about activities and issues on the national scene. Because my role is also instructional, I try to show our patrons how to ferret out information for themselves. Empowering people with the knowledge of what and where the resources are is one of my goals.

In libraryland we distinguish between various classes of

information. There is recorded information (in books, periodicals, newspapers, government publications, audiovisual materials) and what we call "the invisible network": that vital communication link of scholars, students, and experts in a particular field that is harder, from the standpoint of the librarian, to pin down. Half of my knowledge about most California Indian issues I would say comes from the printed word or image; the other half comes from consulting colleagues outside our library: Native American teachers and faculty, Indians in the community, social service people, and other librarians. This half of the information equation is absolutely essential to the work I do.

The environment of recorded information in which I work is a library of about 800,000 volumes, with strong general and special collections on the Indians of California - especially of the San Joaquin Valley and Sierra Nevada foothill regions. We have a good legal reference section, a selected depository of California and U.S. government documents (with a knowledgeable documents librarian) and a large collection of periodical indexes. We have many of the print "access tools" which exist and many of the periodicals and reports that these tools lead to.

The network of people I consult starts with our Native American Studies professor and students. Beyond the campus I have had to reach out to the UC Berkeley Native American Studies Library; the public library in Auberry which serves Miwok, Mono, and Yokuts Indians and which has a collection of materials from the CILC Project; the Native American Research Information Service in

Oklahoma, with its computerized database of over 6,000 items on the Native American experience from 1969 to the present; the Native American Rights Fund; and the BIA.

The most important areas of current recorded information lie in the Native Press (largely through periodicals, newspapers, and newsletters). Since most of this information is not indexed anywhere (except for major periodicals such as Akwesasne Notes, American Indian Quarterly, and News from Native California), I need to do a lot of regular reading to be of assistance to my patrons and I recommend that those who are seriously interested in California Indian issues do the same. This often pays off. As an example, when a Native American student came into the Library to ask about the contents of the Tribal Status Bill, I was able to show her an article from News from Native California (Aug/Sept/Oct 1990) which had excerpts from the bill, as well as an article from Native Nevadan which had a nice discussion of it.

When I need to find current literature on a specific topic, I then need to use indexes, usually a wide variety (listed in the ^{attached} bibliography). Increasingly, I need to do online searching of indexes (called databases). I would like to encourage all of you to investigate this service either at your county libraries or a college which you may attend. The results can be very gratifying. As an example, when I performed a search for information on the Tache at Santa Rosa Rancheria through an online database of our local newspaper, the Fresno Bee, I retrieved a list of 51 references in a matter of 10 minutes. Access to the information in

this newspaper would not be readily available to us, except through this online format.

Tracking federal legislation and administration with respect to California Indians is the most difficult, yet among the most important and commonly performed searches I do on California Indians. I am not an attorney or a law librarian, yet I have needed to know how to find this information for our patrons. I have included in the handout the legal/government information sources, both federal and state, that I use most commonly.

My concerns about accessing current information on California Indians (and Indians in general) are many. First, the information is scattered. Second, much of the Native American press is not indexed, although excellent lists of periodicals and newspapers exist. Librarians and Indian people need to lobby the publishers who produce more common indexes (such as InfoTrac and Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature) to include more material on Native Americans so that this information is more broadly available. And, third, while I am enthusiastic about the gifts of online searching, I worry about the cost of these databases, about the ethics of charging for this local information.

California Indian issues can be difficult to research. If more of us in the information profession lobby for improvements to the concerns I mentioned above as well as learn where the answers reside, we will be better able to serve you who need information relating to the many Indian issues of concern today.

SOURCES OF CURRENT INFORMATION
ON CALIFORNIA INDIANS

compiled by Trina Carter
Reference/Multicultural Librarian
Henry Madden Library, CSU Fresno
for
the Sixth Annual California Indian Conference
Riverside, CA, October 25-28, 1990

Items listed on the following pages are those which I have found to be most useful in addressing current issues of concern to California Indians.

GENERAL SOURCES

Danky, James P., ed., and Maureen E. Hady, comp. Native American Periodicals and Newspapers, 1828-1982: Bibliography, Publishing Record, and Holdings. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1984.

Very comprehensive listing of Native newsletters, magazines, journals, and newspapers, both extinct and extant. Gives locations. Geographic index lists publications by individual city.

Davis, Lee and Don Koué. Going Home: The California Indian Library Collections Manual. Berkeley, CA: California Indian Project, Lowie Museum of Anthropology, University of California, 1989.

Describes how to use UC Berkeley archives to do ethnographic research on California Indians and how to use CILC materials to set up a collection in areas serving California Indians. I have found the "Address Book" (pp.87-98) of knowledgeable individuals to be useful for current information.

Littlefield, Daniel F. and James W. Parins. American Indian and Alaska Native Newspapers and Periodicals. 3 volumes. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1984.

Vol. 1: 1826-1924. Vol. 2: 1925-1970. Vol. 3: 1971-1985. Another excellent list of Native American periodicals, with narrative descriptions of the history of each title. Tells if and where each title is indexed and gives title changes and location information.

McKay, Rosalie, and Pattrick Haggarty. "Resources for American Indian Collection Development." In Developing Library Collections for California's Emerging Majority. Edited by Katharine T. A. Scarborough. Oakland, CA: Bay Area Library and Information System, 1990. Pp. 146-171.

This is an excellent list of organizations and agencies, knowledgeable individuals, books, periodicals, and publishers.

Vane, Sylvia Brakke, and Lowell John Bean. California Indians: Primary Resources. Rev. ed. Menlo Park, CA: Ballena Press, 1990.

A county by county "guide to manuscripts, artifacts, documents, serials, music and illustrations" in California, as well as California Indian collections in other countries. There are also chapters on the California Indian Library Collections Project, searching for literature on California Indians, and using government documents and archives.

DIRECTORIES

California. Indian Assistance Program, Department of Housing and Community Development. 1990 Field Directory of the California Indian Community. Sacramento, CA: The Program, 1990.

The most up-to-date source on California Indian reservations and rancherias. Includes phone numbers.

Confederation of American Indians, comp. Indian Reservations: A State and Federal Handbook. New York: McFarland, 1986.

California reservations and rancherias are listed on pp. 28-74.

Eagle/Walking Turtle. Indian America: a Traveler's Companion. Santa Fe, NM: John Muir Publications, 1989.

See pp. 328-353 for California tribes, reservations, and rancherias.

Frazier, Gregory W. The Smoke Signals: A Directory of American Indian and Alaska Native Businesses in Indian Country, USA. Denver, CO: Arrowstar, 1989.

Listing of tribal and Indian-owned businesses.

Klein, Barry T., ed. Reference Encyclopedia of the American Indian. 5th ed. West Nyack, NY: Todd Publications, 1990.

Lists reservations, tribal councils, associations, schools, financial aid, museums, libraries, audiovisual materials, and many other resources for California Indians.

The Red Pages: Businesses Across Indian America. Toppenish, WA: LaCourse Communications, 1985.

Older listing of tribal and Indian-owned businesses. See pp. 76-110 for California.

INDEXES

Indexes are the major tools used to get at current references to periodical and newspaper articles, and sometimes books and reports, on a given topic. Most of the indexes listed below will be available through central county libraires, colleges, and universities. Computerized versions of many of the following

indexes, either "CD-ROM" or "online," are increasingly used because they allow more rapid and powerful retrieval of information. A variety of CD-ROM indexes are available in many college and university libraries; users may access these themselves, usually without cost. Generally, a librarian acts as an intermediary to perform online searches, for which there is usually a fee.

Searching by subject in indexes for California Indian groups involve using various terms, depending on the index. Some indexes use "Indians of North America--California"; others use "Native Americans"; others will index the name of the tribe or group. Even here, especially with an online search, it is important to identify all possibilities (e.g. Tache, Tachi, Southern Valley Yokuts, Santa Rosa Rancheria). Ask the librarian at the library you frequent about relevant indexes (print or computerized) for your topic.

Alternative Press Index. Northfield, MN: Radical Research Center, 1969- Quarterly.

Indexes the periodical Akwesasne Notes. Also covers other "alternative" publications which discuss Native American issues.

America: History and Life. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 1964- Four issues per year.

Excellent coverage and indexing of California Indians. Primarily historical articles and books are referenced.

American Statistics Index. Bethesda, MD: Congressional Information Service, 1974- Monthly.

The major source for government-produced statistics.

Art Index. New York: H.W. Wilson, 1929- Quarterly.

Covers all forms of art. Indexes periodicals, reports, and notices of museum exhibits.

California Periodicals Index. Dekalb, IL: Gabriel Micrographics, 1977- Annual.

Major indexer of News from Native California. Also covers other periodicals which discuss California Indian issues.

California State Library, comp. California State Publications. Sacramento, CA: Printing Division, Documents Section, 1947- Monthly.

Indexes reports, statistics, hearings, directories, and periodicals. Covers publications of the California State University.

Dissertation Abstracts. Section A: Social Sciences and Humanities. Ann Arbor, MI: University Microfilms International, 1938- Quarterly.

Covers one million doctoral dissertations and 37,000 masters theses from 1861 to the present. Many relevant citations to California Indians.

ERIC (Educational Resources Information Center). 1966-
Computerized version of the print indexes Current Index to Journals in Education and Resources in Education. Print and CD-ROM versions are widely available in colleges and universities. High number of references (many from U.S. Dept. of Education) on Native Americans and education, many dealing with California.

Humanities Index. New York: H.W. Wilson, 1966- Quarterly.
Covers language and literature, performing arts, religion, history, and folklore.

Index to Legal Periodicals. New York: H.W. Wilson, 1908-Monthly.
Many law reviews report on and interpret Indian legal issues and this is an excellent tool for getting at these articles. Has subject index as well as indexes by Case and by Statute. Covers American Indian Law Review.

Los Angeles Times Index. Ann Arbor, MI: University Microfilms International, 1972- Quarterly.

MLA International Bibliography of Books and Articles on the Modern Languages and Literatures. New York: Modern Language Association, 1922- Annual.
Good coverage of Indian languages and literature.

Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1895-
Major source for locating federal agency publications.

PAIS bulletin. New York: Public Affairs Information Service, 1915-Quarterly.
Broad, selected coverage of federal, state, and local government publications, independent reports, articles, and books on public policy issues, including Indian affairs.

San Francisco Chronicle Index. Ann Arbor, MI: University Microfilms International, 1972- Quarterly.

Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI). Philadelphia, PA: Institute for Scientific Information, 1969- Three issues per year.
Good coverage of all areas of social science. There are references to California Indian items, although many are book reviews. Best searched in computerized version.

VU/TEXT

Multiple newspaper index that is only available online. Coverage is generally for the last 3-5 years. California titles included are the Fresno Bee, Los Angeles Daily News, Los Angeles Times, Sacramento Bee, San Francisco Examiner,

and San Jose Mercury. I have found this index to be very important for retrieving local news about Indians. VERY expensive to search.

NATIVE PRESS PERIODICALS/NEWSPAPERS

The following are periodicals which either significantly cover California Indians or which discuss topics of importance to all Native Americans.

Akwesasne Notes. Rooseveltown, NY: Mohawk Nation, 1968-
Bimonthly.

American Indian Law Review. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma,
College of Law, 1973- Semi-annual.

American Indian Quarterly. Berkeley, CA: University of California,
Native American Studies, 1974- Quarterly.

Journal of American Indian Education. Phoenix, AZ: Arizona State
University, Center for Indian Education, 1961- Three issues per
year.

Lakota Times. Martin, SD: Native American Publishing Company,
1981- Weekly.

N A R F Legal Review. Boulder, CO: Native American Rights Fund,
1972- Quarterly.

Native American Heritage Newsletter. Sacramento, CA: California
Native American Heritage Commission, 1988- Three issues per year.

Native Nevadan. Reno, NV: Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, Tribal
Council, 1964- Monthly.

News from Indian Country. Hayward, WI: Indian Country
Communications, 1988- Monthly.

News from Native California. Berkeley, CA: Heyday Books, 1987-
Quarterly.

LEGISLATION CONCERNING CALIFORNIA INDIANS

I often need to locate particular federal and state bills, statutes, rules, hearings, reports, and cases concerning California Indians. The following sources are the ones I consult most often.

Federal Legislation

CIS/Index: Congressional Information Service; Index to Publications of the United States Congress. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Information Service, 1970- Monthly.

A good first place to look for tracing federal legislation. Indexes all legislative reports and gives summaries of them.

Congressional Index. Washington, D.C.: Commerce Clearing House, 1937/38-

Weekly. Good tool for following a bill through Congress (e.g. H.R. 5436; August 2, 1990: California Tribal Status Act of 1990). Indexes congressional bills and resolutions and lists their current status.

Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1895-

Primary source for finding many congressional publications, especially committee hearings and reports.

U.S. Code Congressional and Administrative News. St. Paul, MN: West Publishing Company, 1939- Monthly, with annual cumulations. Contains full text of all public laws. Also has selected presidential messages, executive orders, and proclamations. Excellent for tracing history of bills passed into law. For example, to trace history of P.L. 100-580 (Hoopa-Yurok Settlement Act of 1988), check Table of Legislative History for 1988 in this series.

United States Code. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1926-

A compilation of all federal laws in force; these laws are arranged by subject under 50 titles.

Federal Administrative Law

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). Washington, D.C.: U.S. National Archives and Records Service, 1949-

This source prints all rules adopted by federal agencies. Contains presidential documents; rules and regulations; and notices of public meetings.

Federal Register. Washington, D.C.: U.S. National Archives and Records Service, 1936-

Daily update of the CFR. These additions are added to the next edition of the CFR.

Supreme Court Cases

Supreme court decisions can be found in several "casebooks," such as the Supreme Court Reporter, issued weekly. There are indexes to these casebooks by subject and name of case. Lower court decisions are contained in the Federal Reporter (U.S.

appellate courts) and Federal Supplement (U.S. district courts). Court rulings will first be issued as "slip opinions," published within three days of the decision, and then sent to depository libraries.

California Legislation

California Legislature. Legislative Index to Bills, Constitutional Amendments, Joint and Concurrent Resolutions, and Single House Resolutions. Sacramento, CA: The Legislature.

Provides subject access to and history for various pieces of state legislation.

California State Library, comp. California State Publications. Sacramento, CA: Printing Division, Documents Section, 1976-Monthly.